

From: Joseph O'Sullivan  
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 9:26 AM  
To: frank.chopp@leg.wa.gov; j.t.wilcox@leg.wa.gov  
Cc: Dean, Bernard  
Subject: Seattle Times inquiry

Speaker Chopp and Minority Leader Wilcox ☹

I am writing to request that the House Executive Rules Committee authorize the release of the investigative report and any related recommendations/actions related to the workplace complaint against Rep. Jeff Morris.

This request comes after the House Chief Clerk's Office denied my public records inquiry seeking those documents.

There are two reasons of compelling public interest for you to release this report:

First, as I understand it, the House has no official policy governing the release of reports. The Senate last year approved a workplace policy that releases reports against their lawmakers, if the allegations have been deemed justified. That was a policy borne out earlier this year, with the release of the report into allegations against Sen. Kevin Ranker.

The withholding of the Rep. Morris report raises questions about what investigations the House does and doesn't release ☹ and who makes those decisions and why. Last year, the House released a report documenting misconduct by Rep. David Sawyer. Who made the decision to release that report, and how was that decision made? In this case, why withhold the Rep. Morris report?

Second, questions remain about the Legislature's ability to protect its staffers against elected officials, as documented in news stories throughout 2017 and 2018. Withholding the Rep. Morris report deprives Washingtonians the ability to assess how the House responds to and corrects workplace issues.

I urge you to authorize the release of the report.

Respectfully,

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